

ABSTRACT

A fused optical fiber component having a predetermined profile as viewed into a plane including the longitudinal axis of the optical fiber component is fabricated according to a method including the steps of (i) fabricating a billet including a plurality of fused optical fibers extending along a longitudinal axis of the billet; (ii) positioning a billet-surrounding member over at least a portion of the outer surface of the billet; (iii) heating the billet and billet-surrounding member to a temperature sufficient to fused the billet to the billet-surrounding member and (iv) grinding the billet-surrounding member to the desired profile.